

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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C1 1. (Previously Presented) A shorts type disposable diaper comprising a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable anti-leakage sheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core, a body-surrounding portion which is located between a waist opening portion and a leg opening portion, with said body-surrounding portion containing side portions, and a plurality of body-surrounding elastic members provided at the body-surrounding portion, with said body-surrounding elastic members extending in a circumferential width direction of the diaper, wherein:

said plurality of body-surrounding elastic members are fixedly disposed at least at each of said side portions of said diaper, and which body-surrounding elastic members extend in the circumferential width direction of the diaper and outward in a stretched state from longitudinal side edges of said absorbent core, and thereby manifest elastic contractibility at said side portions of the diaper, provided that:

(1) the body-surrounding elastic members are not disposed in at least a center portion of said body-surrounding portion where said absorbent core exists, or alternatively,

(2) said body-surrounding elastic members are disposed in a center portion of said body-surrounding portion where said absorbent core exists in such a manner that elastic contractibility is not manifested thereby in at least said center portion of said diaper, and

(3) the body-surrounding elastic members are each secured in their stretched state at the side portions of said body-surrounding portion to thereby manifest contractibility, with the body-surrounding elastic members being both disposed between and joined to an inner sheet and an outer sheet, and the body-surrounding elastic members thereby forming gathers at the side portions of said body-surrounding portion;

wherein a ratio of a width of said absorbent core to a width of said diaper at a position where said body-surrounding elastic members are disposed is 30 to 60%, when the diaper is laid on a flat surface, and

wherein a ratio of a width of portions of said diaper that contain therein said elastic members that manifest elastic contractibility to the width of said diaper where elastic members are disposed is 40 to 95%, when the diaper is laid on a flat surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein said body-surrounding elastic members

are disposed between an outer sheet which constitutes an outermost surface of said diaper and said anti-leakage sheet.

3. (Previously Presented) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 2, wherein:

said diaper comprises an absorbent body containing said topsheet, said anti-leakage sheet and said absorbent core and an exterior member containing the outer sheet,

said exterior member being disposed on a side of said absorbent body having said anti-leakage sheet, and said absorbent body and

said exterior member are fixed together by partial bonding.

C/ 4. (Previously Presented) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein:

an elastic member which extends in the circumferential width direction of the diaper is fixedly disposed in the waist opening portion, and

a 30% elongation stress of said waist opening portion is greater than a 30% elongation stress of said body-surrounding portion where said body-surrounding elastic members are disposed.

C1 5. (Original) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core has a Taber stiffness of 0.5 to 20 gf·cm.

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6. (New) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein said body-surrounding elastic members have inward ends that are slightly overlapping with the longitudinal side edges of the absorbent core.

C2 7. (New) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein no body surrounding elastic member is provided in the area where the absorbent core exists.

8. (New) The shorts type disposable diaper according to claim 4, wherein the ratio of the 30% elongation stress of the waist opening portion to the 30% elongation stress of the body-surrounding portion is 1.5 to 6.0.

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